

In the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2, 4, 5, 13 and 15 and amend claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14. The marked up versions of the claims is given in Appendix A.

Claim 1 (amended): A protective shield for preventing the transfer of disease and viruses to the palm and digits of a hand of an individual, comprising:

a plurality of sleeves whose first ends are open and whose second distal ends are closed;

a palmar shield of finite extent having first and second surfaces and first and second terminal edges with said plurality of sleeves permanently attached to the first terminal edge; and,

finger insertion enabling means mounted in said first ends of the plurality of sleeves.

Claim 6 (amended): A protective shield for preventing the transfer of disease and viruses to the palm and digits of the working hand of an individual, comprising:

a plurality of sleeves having first and second distal ends where said first ends are held open as by rings mounted in the first ends of said sleeves and whose second distal ends are closed;

a palmar shield of finite extent having first and second surfaces and first and second edges;

means cooperating with said sleeves and said palmar shield for counteracting the transfer of active viruses or other infectious agents from a public surface to the palm and fingers of a hand; and,

retaining means cooperating between said individual and the protective shield for maintaining said protective shield within the insertable reach of the hand of the individual.

Claim 7 (amended): The protective shield of claim 6, wherein said means cooperating with said sleeves and said palmar shield for counteracting the transfer of active viruses or other infectious agents from a public surface to the palm and fingers of a hand comprises disinfectants or fungicides in cooperation with a binding agent that allows one to coat the active surfaces of the protective shield.

Claim 8 (amended): The protective shield of claim 6, wherein said means cooperating with said sleeves and said palmar shield for counteracting the transfer of active viruses or other infectious agents from a public surface to the palm and fingers of a hand comprises disinfectants or fungicides in cooperation with a binding agent immersed in the material of the palmar shield and sleeves.

Claim 9 (amended): An apparatus for preventing the transfer of disease and viruses to the hands of an individual comprising:

a sheath having an interior surface with an absorber disposed thereupon with said absorber being substantially impregnated with a contact transferable decontaminator;

a palm and finger protector having an apron contiguous with a multiplicity of sleeves connected to said apron which is inserted and withdrawn with rubbing contact with said absorber to facilitate the transfer of said decontaminator to the working surfaces of said palm and finger protector;

attaching means connected to the apron and to said sheath for securing the palm and finger protector in the sheath and for connecting the sheath to an element of clothing on the body for securing said apparatus during non-use.

Claim 12 (amended). The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said attaching means consists of hook and loop fasteners.

Claim 14 (amended] The protective shield of claim 1, wherein two sleeves are used to cover a multiplicity of fingers.

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IN THE DRAWINGS

Attached please find corrected drawings for FIGS. 1-3 and new FIGS. 3 and 4.